

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BERLIN COMMEMORATION OF GENERAL LUCIUS CLAY

REF: USBERLIN 0908

1. BERLIN SENAT HAS OPENED THREE CONDOLENCE BOOKS AT RATHAUS
SCHOENEBOURG FOR THOSE WISHING TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF
GEN. CLAY WHO WAS AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF WEST BERLIN.
2. U.S. MISSION HAS ALSO OPENED CONDOLENCE BOOK AT AMERIKA
HAUS; BOOK WAS SIGNED ON APRIL 18 BY BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMANDANTS
IN ADDITION TO HUNDREDS OF BERLIN CITIZENS. LONG LINES WHICH
FORMED TO SIGN BOOK CAUSED AMERIKA HAUS TO ADVANCE ITS -
OPENING BY ONE-HALF HOUR.
3. ALL BOOKS WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT UPON COMPLETION.
4. THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PLANS TO HOLD A
BRIEF MEMORIAL SESSION ON THE DAY OF GEN. CLAY'S BURIAL, APRIL
21. ONLY SPEAKER AT THIS SESSION WILL BE HOUSE PRESEIDENT,
PETER LORENZ.
5. MINISTER ISSUED STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS ON APRIL 17:
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BEGIN TEXT:

LAST NIGHT MARKED THE PASSING OF ONE OF THE PIVOTAL FIGURES
IN THE REBUILDING OF A SHATTERED GERMANY AND, IN PARTICULAR,
BERLIN. AS THE U.S. MILITARY GOVERNOR DURING THE PERIOD
1947-1949, GENERAL LUCIUS D. CLAY PERSONALLY CONTRIBUTED
TO LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR THE DEMOCRATIC, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

STRENGTH WHICH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ENJOYS IN OUR TIMES.

GOVERNING THE U.S. OCCUPIED ZONE FO GERMANY FROM BERLIN, HE OVERSAW THE BERLIN AIRLIFT IN 1948 AND RETURNED TO BERLIN AS PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S PERSONAL EMISSARY DURING THE DISTURBED PERIOD OF 1961. THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF BERLIN TODAY OWE MUCH TO HIS LEADERSHIP IN THOSE CRUCIAL TIMES.

GENERAL CLAY EARNED THE ADMIRATION OF GERMANS AND AMERICANS ALIKE FOR HIS HUMANE AND FAR REACHING APPROACH TO THE GOVERNING OF POST-WAR GERMANY. HE WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED BY THE BENEFICIARIES OF HIS VISION. END TEXT.
STATEMENT RECEIVED HEAVY PRESS PLAY.

6. GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING THAT IT WAS MORE THAN DOUBTFUL THAT THERE WOULD BE A FREE BERLIN TODAY IF CLAY HAD NOT ACTED AS "VIGOROUSLY AND DETERMINEDLY" AS HE DID.

7. BERLIN PAPERS ALL RAN FRONT PAGE STORIES IN APRIL 18 EDITIONS ON CLAY'S DEATH AND RANG COMMON EDITORIAL THEMES ECHOING STOBBE'S COMMENT REPORTED PARA 6. INDEP. BERLINER MORGENPOST ADDED THAT CLAY WAS "GODFATHER TO THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL BRIDGE BETWEEN AMERICANS AND GERMANS WHICH HAS LONG BECOME THE SOUL OF THE ATLANTIC ALIANCE. TABLOID BILDZEITUNG DEVOTED ITS LEAD SEVEN PAGES TO CLAY, COMMENTING THAT HE "FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM AND WON."
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8. INDEP DER ABEND CALLED CLAY THE MAN WHO "CO-DETERMINED" THE POSTWAR FATE OF GERMANY "INITIALLY NOT BECAUSE HE FELT FRIENDSHIP FOR GERMANY BUT BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZED SOVIET EXPANSIONISM IN CENTRAL EUROPE...EARLIER THATN OTHERS." DER ABEND QUOTED NY TIMES AS STATING THAT AFTER CLAY'S RECALL FROM BERLIN, HIS RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH REQUIRED INITIATIVES INSTEAD OF REACTIONS, NEVER HARMONIZED WITH WASHINGTON'S INSISTENCE ON A RELATIVELY SOFTER COURSE REFERRING TO THE LARGER PATTERN OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

9. COMMENT: IN COUNTLESS SMALL WAYS BERLINERS ARE SHOWING US THAT THEY REMEMBER GENERAL CLAY AND APPRECIATE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY. BEZIRK ZEHLENDORF HAS BEGUN TO DRAPE "CLAYALLEE"SIGNS AT STREET CORNERS WITH BLACK CREPE. MANY SIGNING CONDOLENCE BOOK AT AMERIKA HAUS HAVE BROUGHT FLORAL TRIBUTES. BUT IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THOSE SIGNING ARE MOSTLY OLDER CITIZENS.
END COMMENT.

10. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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